

Each year, a large number of trees are lost on Prince Edward County (the "County") owned property due to age, disease, weather conditions, and other factors. The County recognizes the impact that losing these trees has to our natural environment and to our communities. The County is implementing an Adopt-A-Tree program to allow citizens to take part in Tree Stewardship within the County with the goal of maintaining tree cover.

The Adopt-a-Tree program provides a way for citizens to participate in tree planting, maintenance, and monitoring and is intended to increase the number of replacement trees planted each year.

The objectives of the Adopt-A-Tree program are:

- improve the number of trees planted throughout the County
- contribute to maintaining a zero-net loss of trees on county property
- improve public participation in tree management, planting, and maintenance;
- make it feasible to plant trees in areas where trees are difficult to maintain for logistical reasons; and

ADOPT A TREE PROGRAMS

Seedling Giveaway to Property Owners

To improve tree-cover in our communities, each spring, the County will procure a number of seedlings for planting on private property. The quantity and price of seedlings available will be determined based on the allowable budget set by council and by available grant funding. The goal will be to reduce or eliminate the cost of these seedlings to the public to promote increased tree cover in the community. The program will include the following features:

- a. Seedlings will be sourced from local producers and/or through community partnerships, (the Conservation Authority or other parties). Seedlings will meet the species requirement and diversity goals established in the TMPP.
- b. Seedlings will be provided to residents on a first come first serve basis. A maximum of 2 saplings will be provided to each property owner per year.
- c. Residents will be required to plant and maintain trees obtained under this program. County staff will provide participating homeowners with an educational package including instructions for planting and proper care of the tree.
- d. Mulch may be obtained from Operations facilities for placement around the newly planted tree when available.
- e. Home owners will be required to report back to the County in the event a tree obtained through this program does not survive. Confirmations of planting and general reports on tree health are also appreciated.
- f. Notice of the giveaways, the quantity of trees available, mulch availability, and pickup locations will be provided by the county's Communications Staff and through the EAC's Communications Hub.

Community Groups and Partner Organization Plantings

The County recognizes the importance of partnering with community groups and the significant efforts these groups have put into organizing tree planting events in the past. County Staff hope to continue working with these organizations and provide the opportunity to others groups interested in getting involved.

Community groups wishing to propose future planting projects on County property can apply for a planting site by contacting the Operations department or via an application link to be included on the EAC's Communication Hub. A list of planting sites will be established and maintained through an internal review of available properties and from public input through the Have Your Say website.

Two projects will be selected by the Director of Operations or his designates each Fall for implementation the following year. Additional sites may be made available at the discretion of the Director of Operations based on site availability and staff resources.

Projects submitted for consideration must identify the scope, tree species proposed, proposed location, funding source, and include a long-term plan for maintenance. Projects including native trees will be preferred. A list of available grants that may be able to support community driven plantings will be made available on the proposed EAC Communications Hub.

The County will provide the following support to approved projects:

- a. provision of mulch;
- b. provision of a water tank (subject to availability) to remain at the planting location for up to 2 years;
- c. review of the proposal to ensure species diversity and adherence to the Tree Management and Preservation Policy.
- d. advertisement of the project via County communication channels.
- e. provision of a planting site on County owned lands.

Right of Way Tree Replacement and Planting Program

A significant number of trees are lost each year from municipal right of ways due to a number of factors like weather, disease, and natural aging. These trees are important as they improve air quality, provide windbreaks and shade, beautify our community, and provide habitat and food for wildlife. The County is committed to partnering with homeowners to replace these trees so future generations may enjoy their benefits.

Homeowners wishing to have a previously removed right-of-way tree replaced may make a formal request by reaching out to Operations via Customer Service or via the EAC Communications Hub. Operations staff will maintain a list of those requests and will work to plant these replacement trees based on available budget determined by Council. Requests will be evaluated by Operations staff and locations will be selected based on their suitability for a new tree (proper soil thickness, absence of utilities, located in well drained areas). Preference will be given to locations where homeowners are willing to enter into an Adopt a Tree agreement.

This agreement will include the following features:

- a. The County will provide and install replacement trees per the Tree Management and Preservation Policy. Planting sites can be offset to private property if preferred by the adjacent homeowner.
- b. Homeowners will agree to maintaining the tree for up to two years after the initial planting. This includes watering on a weekly basis and providing updates to operations on the health of the tree(s) when requested or in the event the tree's health declines.
- c. Educational information describing how to care for a new tree will be provided to homeowners.

Homeowners wishing to plant trees on a County Right of way where no tree previously existed may also apply to participate in the Adopt-a-Tree Program. These requests may be made through Customer Service and through the EAC Communication's Hub.

encl.

Attachment A - Adopt-A-Tree Request and Consent Form